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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,309	06/13/2000	Manu Kumar	000399	7378

23639 7590 03/01/2004
BINGHAM, MCCUTCHEN LLP
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EXAMINER

BOUTAH, ALINA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2004

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/592,309

Applicant(s)

KUMAR, MANU

Examiner

Alina N Boutah

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is in response to Applicant's amendment received December 30, 2003. Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,108,687 issued to Craig in view of USPN 6,240,444 issued to Fin et al.

(Amended) Regarding claim 1, Craig teaches an apparatus for interactive communications over a network among participants at a plurality of locations, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of computers operatively connected to the network (figures 1 and 3) ;

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each of said plurality of computers including means for receiving and displaying information from the network (figure 3); and

one of said plurality of computers being a leader having means for transmitting information to each of the other of said plurality of computers over the network, wherein said other computers each generally simultaneously displays the same information (Abstract; col. 3, line 45 to col. 4, line 29).

However, Craig fails to explicitly teach said means for transmitting comprising a shared web browser to allow the leader to surf through the internet and to cause said other computers to follow the leader through the internet.

Fin teaches means for transmitting comprising a shared web browser to allow the leader to surf through the internet and to cause said other computers to follow the leader through the internet (abstract, col. 3, lines 12 – 55).

At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to enable means for transmitting to comprise a shared web browser to allow the leader to surf through the internet and to cause said other computers to follow the leader through the internet in order allow users of the internet to simultaneously collaborate web pages (col. 2 line 65 to col. 10).

Regarding claim 2, Craig teaches the apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the network comprises the Internet (col. 4, lines 12-15).

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Regarding claim 3, Craig teaches the apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for receiving and displaying information from the network comprises a web browser (Abstract).

Regarding claim 4, Craig teaches the apparatus recited in claim 1, wherein said means for transmitting information to each of the other said plurality from one of said plurality of computers comprises a presenter interface, the presenter interface further comprising means for communicating with each of the other of said plurality of computers and for causing information to be generally simultaneously displayed on said other computers (Figure 4; Abstract).

(Amended) Regarding claim 8, Craig teaches a method of conducting a collaborative presentation among a plurality of participants at two or more locations, wherein each of said participants has a computer operatively connected to a computer network, the method comprising:

a) providing a website on the computer network for said participants to obtain access to the collaborative presentation (col. 4, lines 7-10);

b) providing information to be displayed on each of said participants' computers during the collaborative presentation (col. 4, lines 16-29);

c) providing means for said participants to access the website (col. 4, lines 7-10); and

d) initiating the collaborative presentation by one of said plurality of participants presenting the information on the one of said participant's computers, wherein the computer of each of the other of said plurality of participants generally simultaneously displays the information (Abstract; col. 4, lines 16-29).

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However, Craig fails to explicitly teach e) sharing a web browser of one of said plurality of participants with each of the other of said plurality of participants so that the shared web browser causes the plurality of participants to collectively surf through the internet.

Fin teaches e) sharing a web browser of one of said plurality of participants with each of the other of said plurality of participants so that the shared web browser causes the plurality of participants to collectively surf through the internet (abstract, col. 3, lines 12 – 55).

At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ e) in order allow users of the internet to simultaneously collaborate web pages (col. 2 line 65 to col. 10)

(Amended) Regarding claim 9, Craig teaches a method of conducting a conference among a plurality of participants situated at two or more locations over a computer network, the method comprising:

- a) providing a website on the computer network (col. 4, lines 7-10);
- b) providing means for said participants to access the website via a computer having a display (col. 4, lines 7-10);
- c) providing a browser interface for conducting the conference (Abstract); and
- d) operably connecting each said participants computers such that the display of each of said participants generally simultaneously displays the shared browser interface (Abstract; col. 4, lines 16-29).

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Regarding claim 10, Craig teaches as recited in claim 9 further including the step of categorizing said participants into one of a presenter participant or an attendee participant, such that the presenter participants' computer controls each of said attendee participants computers via the browser interface (figure 4; col. 12, lines 55-56).

(Amended) Regarding claim 11, Craig teaches an apparatus for conducting a conference among a plurality of participants situated at two or more locations over a computer network, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a website having a server computer on the computer network (col. 4, lines 7-10);
- b) means for said participants to access the website via a computer having a display (col. 4, lines 7-10);
- c) a shared browser interface for conducting the conference (figure 2); and
- d) means for operably connecting each of said participants computers such that the display of each of said participants generally simultaneously displays the shared browser interface (Abstract; col. 4, lines 16-29).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Craig in view of Fin, in further view of *Using Microsoft Powerpoint 2000* by Rutledge et al.

(Amended) Regarding claim 5, Craig teaches a method of conducting a collaborative presentation among a plurality of participants situated at two or more locations, wherein each of said participants has a computer operatively connected to a computer network, the method comprising:

a) providing a web site on the computer network for a said participants to obtain access to the collaborative presentation (col. 4, lines 7-10);

c) providing information to be displayed on each of said participant's computers during the collaborative presentation (col. 4, lines 16-29);

d) accessing the website to the identifier means (col. 4, lines 16-29); and

e) initiating the collaborative presentation by one of said plurality of participants presenting the information on the one of said participants computers, wherein the computer of each of the other of said plurality of participants generally simultaneously displays the information (Abstract; col. 4, lines 16-29).

However, Craig does not expressly teach f) sharing a web browser of one of said plurality of participants with each of the other of said plurality of participants, so that the shared web browser causes the plurality of participants to collectively surf through the internet.

Fin teaches f) sharing a web browser of one of said plurality of participants with each of the other of said plurality of participants, so that the shared web browser causes the plurality of participants to collectively surf through the internet (abstract, col. 3, lines 12 – 55).

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At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ f) in order allow users of the internet to simultaneously collaborate web pages (col. 2 line 65 to col. 10).

Craig and Fin do not expressly teach b) sending a message to each of said plurality of participants, the message providing an identifier means for accessing the collaborative presentation. Rutledge et al. teach sending a message to each of said plurality of participants, the message providing an identifier means for accessing the collaborative presentation (Chapter 17, Using Online Broadcasts and Meetings pages 1-11). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to send a message to each of said plurality of participants in order to instruct the participants to access the collaborative presentation, thus, ensuring that those that are intended to participate in the presentation will not be left out.

Regarding claim 6, Craig teaches the method of conducting a collaborative presentation among a plurality of participants as recited in claim 5, further including the step of initiating a telephone conference call while conducting the collaborative presentation (col. 4, lines 51-55).

Regarding claim 7, Craig fails to expressly teach the method of conducting a collaborative presentation among a plurality of participants as recited in claim 5, wherein said identifier means comprises one or more of a confirmation number, and a scheduled date and time for accessing the collaborative presentation. Rutledge et al. teaches said identifier means comprises a scheduled date and time for accessing the collaborative presentation (Chapter 17, Using Online Broadcasts and Meetings pages 1-11). At the time the invention was made, one of

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ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to enable said identifier means to comprise a scheduled date and time for accessing the collaborative presentation in order to ensure that participants will access the presentation at the specific time and date, therefore, ensuring that those that are intended to participate in the presentation will not be left out.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alina N Boutah whose telephone number is (703) 305-5104. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (9:00 am-7:00 pm).

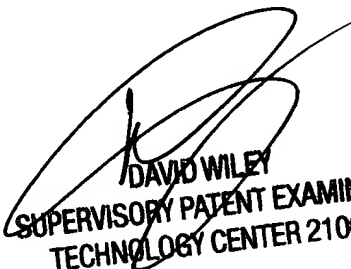
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (703) 308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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